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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Roman M. Chicx et al.

Art Unit : 1631

Serial No. : 09/372,380

Examiner : S. Zhou

Filed : August 11, 1999

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Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Applicants thank Examiners Zhou and Borin for the helpful interview with the undersigned on March 1, 2002. In response to the Final Office Action dated December 31, 2001, please amend the application as follows.

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1-5, 10, 14, 17, and 21 as follows:

1. (Amended) A ligand profile which is characteristic for a given cell, the ligand profile comprising a representation of at least ten different polypeptide ligands produced in the cell, wherein all of the at least ten different polypeptide ligands bind to a single type of multi-ligand binding receptor present in the cell, wherein the representation characterizes each individual ligand based upon at least three physical or chemical attributes; provided that, if the multi-ligand binding receptor is an MHC class I or class II receptor, at least 500 polypeptide ligands are represented in the ligand profile; and further provided that the ligand profile is a reproducible characteristic of the cell.

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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